

SPANISH SCHOOL  
Summer 1968

by Dr. Gonzalez

The fifty-second session of the Spanish School was a complete success in the number of students registered and in all activities.

Enrollment. As the enrollment was up to the capacity of the school in the dormitories and the number of students allowed to live in the village was limited as in the previous year to married persons and to the Ph.D. students, we should make a serious effort from now on to screen the students and not just to take them in the chronological order of their applications.

Screening of applicants. I propose the following rules for a very elementary screening:

1. No undergraduates should be admitted. I do not know the reasons for which some undergraduates were admitted last summer. It was a complete surprise to me to see several undergraduate students on the day of registration. They give a different atmosphere to the school. Only in a few exceptional cases should undergraduate students be admitted. The only exceptions should be those students who could render a possible service to the college in certain activities such as theater, choir, etc.
2. Students who received several "C's" should be barred from admission. There is no reason why students who have proven more than once their inability to learn Spanish should be admitted when we have no shortage of qualified students. One of these students, Mrs. Burrows, who, to my recollection, has earned more than four "C's", had been admitted last summer.

3. No Ph.D. applicant should be admitted in the school without my approval. Last summer I was surprised to meet some applicants on the day of registration of whom I had no previous knowledge. One of these applicants tried to register for one conversation course for the Ph.D.

Permanent Secretary. The school needs a permanent secretary and much more now that Dean Guarnaccia is not in Middlebury. The permanent secretary could be acting dean. In this way, I would know with whom I have to deal because last winter almost four persons intervened in the operations of the Spanish School, and decisions were made by different persons.

The courses.

1. The language courses. The Spanish School in Spain is having a certain impact on the language courses as we do not allow those students going to Madrid to take conversation courses. This, added to the increasing number of Spanish-speaking people (Cubans, Spaniards, Puerto Ricans) registered in the school, has substantially reduced the number of the students in the conversation courses while the same circumstances have increased the number of those registered in the phonetics courses. Last summer we had to add a new phonetics course. Mr. Gómez de Silva, a Mexican enrolled in the Russian School, took charge of this course and proved to be a competent teacher.

2. The literature courses. The two visiting professors from Spain, Alberto Sánchez and José Luis Cano, had a brilliant success. They were already known to our students because they teach in the Spanish School of Middlebury College in Madrid. Professor Eduardo Camacho, the Latin American visiting professor, had even a greater

success than in the previous summer. He lectured on Miguel Angel Asturias, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1968. Professor Sánchez lectured in both courses on the Golden Age, and Mr. José Luis Cano on contemporary Spanish poetry.

Mr. Ramón Piñeiro, who came from Saint James of Compostela, Spain, and Professor Juan Cano, from Yale University, did a wonderful job, the first on the Spanish essay, and the second on Spanish poetry both of the Golden Age and the Romantic period.

All of these courses were intended for Master and Ph.D. students.

3. The survey courses. We had several courses on the first elementary level of graduate work in Spanish and Latin American literature and civilization: Spanish civilization by Professor Manuel Asensio, Survey of Spanish literature by Professor Antonio de la Campa, a new acquisition to the school, Latin American civilization by Mr. Lamberto Cano and Survey of Latin American literature by Professor Manuel Alvarez Morales.

Lectures. All of the visiting professors and Professor Juan Cano gave lectures: Professor Camacho on Miguel Angel Asturias, Professor Sánchez on Vicente Blasco Ibáñez, Professor José Luis Cano on Personal Reminiscences of Antonio Machado. Professor Juan López Morillas, chairman of the Spanish Department of Brown University, lectured on Pérez Galdós' novel.

Theater. Professor Castaños is a dynamic theater director. She had the cooperation of both students and professors to stage several plays.

Choir. Mr. Emilio Núñez was a very resourceful director of the folk songs on Tuesday and Thursday evenings on the lawn and even more

inspiring to direct a choir of about 69 voices which sang music of the Renaissance and the Baroque.

Outing. The mood of the school seemed a little more inclined this summer toward the picnics although the weather was not favorable. The first picnic being cancelled on account of the rain, the second had a large attendance.

Bookstore. The bookstore had a profit amounting to \$1,023.97 in the summer session. Taking into account this profit, I feel we should keep the bookstore.